

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/708,180

Examiner

Vicky A. Johnson

Applicant(s)

MULLER, FRIEDRICH

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed August 3, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4-13, 15, 16, 18 and 22-26.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 4-13, 15, 16, 18, and 22-26 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: There is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art of the claimed combination having fastening elements that do not project to the exterior of the casing parts and the exterior of the casing has a continuous contour that is free of edges, corners, projections, recesses, and steps caused by the fastening elements or by recesses for receiving the fastening elements so that dirt particles and germs are prevented from depositing on the exterior of the casing; wherein a first one of the casing parts has through openings for receiving the fastening elements; wherein the first casing part has an end face provided with recesses, wherein the through openings open into the recesses; re claim 7, wherein the fastening elements do not project to the exterior of the casing parts and the exterior of the casing has a continuous contour that is free of edges, comers, projections, recesses, and steps caused by the fastening elements or by recesses for receiving the fastening elements so that dirt particles and germs are prevented from depositing on the exterior of the casing; wherein a first one of the casing parts has through openings for receiving the fastening elements; wherein the first casing part has an end face and wherein the through openings of the first casing part are positioned recessed relative to the end face; re claim 16, wherein the fastening elements do not project to the exterior of the casing parts and the exterior of the casing has a continuous contour that is free of edges, comers, projections, recesses, and steps caused by the fastening elements or by recesses for receiving the fastening elements so that dirt particles and germs are

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prevented from depositing on the exterior of the casing; wherein a first one of the casing parts has at least one casing member projecting laterally from the first casing part; wherein the at least one casing member has an end face that is closed off by a lid; wherein the lid has a shoulder surface resting areally on an end face of the at least one casing member re claim 23, wherein the fastening elements comprise first and second fastening elements, wherein a first one of the casing parts has through openings for inserting the first fastening elements, wherein a second one of the casing parts has threaded bores into which the first fastening elements are threaded and has through openings for inserting the second fastening elements, wherein a third one of the casing parts has threaded bores into which the second fastening elements are threaded.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vicky A. Johnson whose telephone number is (571) 272-7106. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:00a-3:30p).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on (571) 272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Vicky A. Johnson 9/26/07
Primary Examiner
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